



The Maryville City Council toured the Maryville Water Treatment Plant Feb. 10. Employees of PeopleService Inc. led the tour, informing city staff and council of general operation procedures and addressed recent concerns involving the algae bloom at Mozingo Lake.

KENDRICK CALFEE | NW MISSOURIAN

Board adds nursing degree

LIZ SWAFFORD

News Reporter | @lizswafford3

The Board of Regents passed a resolution to create an online Master of Science in nursing program Jan. 30.

In 2017, the Board of Regents passed a motion that extended the curriculum on the nursing program. It allowed new additions and significant changes. The meeting in 2020 was about expanding the program.

The current nursing program only offers a pre-nursing track and a registered nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The new degree through the University will help nurses who would like to achieve their master's.

The pre-nursing program the University offers allows students to complete the standard beginning courses of this degree, but they then had to transfer to a different school to complete their degree. Then, with the registered nurse to Bachelor of Science, it allows current nurses to come and achieve their bachelor's degree online.

With this new proposal, current registered nurses who have obtained their Bachelors of Science in nursing can take classes online through Northwest and obtain their Master of Science in nursing.

Provost Jamie Hooyma brought the program to the board for approval. She said in her proposal that this program can help nursing students obtain leadership positions easier.

"The nursing profession continues to encourage nurses to advance their education. Nurses who aspire to gain leadership roles are being asked to hold graduate degrees," Hooyma said at the meeting.

Hooyma said, according to recent studies, this program would be a great asset to the University.

"Northwest's Nursing Advisory Board identified the need for graduate education options for professional nurses in the region and nation," Hooyma said. "Market analysis conducted by Academic Partnerships shows there is strong interest from potential students in the state and region."

Director of Nursing Brooke McAttee said the program would be great for people who are already nurses.

"That's a huge advantage of going back to school after you've already started working as a registered nurse — getting your associate's degree and then your bachelors — is that your employer might reimburse you," McAttee said.

According to the meeting's open agenda, this program will be a 30-hour graduate program.

According to the document, the program will offer 15 hours of core classes with the remaining 15 hours completed in either the nurse executive/administration track or the nurse educator track.

McAttee said the planning took about three months before it was presented to the faculty senate.

"We started developing curriculum in about September and developed 15 courses and set course descriptions to them," McAttee said.

Hooyma said the program will not require Northwest to hire any new faculty.

The Board approved the creation of the program unanimously. The program will be an online course of study and will start in the fall 2020 semester.

STAGNANT

City has no timeline for algae solution

KENDRICK CALFEE

Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfree

With no official projections or timeline in place to tackle concerns with contact of Mozingo Lake, the city council and other city staff toured the Maryville Water Treatment Plant Feb. 10 to get a gauge on the best plan of action for longer-term solutions.

Water facility employees informed city staff of details they are looking to perfect on their end of the issue, like using a stronger microscope for more accurate testing at the plant. Since the lake is recording varying numbers in cell counts of the bacteria produced from recent algae blooms, the facility is required to meet standards provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for two consecutive weeks, which is what has been delaying the removal of warning signage at Mozingo Lake.

City Manager Greg McDanel helped guide the tour with water facility employees who operate through PeopleService Inc., a water and wastewater management company out of Omaha, Nebraska.

McDanel said there is a misconception that the overuse of membranes has caused the discoloration and odor in the water. For city staff, he asked water facility employee George Hulett to explain the membranes further.

"(The filtration system) basically pulls the organics out of the water," Hulett said. "What's in there could pass through... so basically the best way to combat that is with carbon. The GAC, granular activated carbon."

These are the same type of membranes Public Works Director C.E. Goodall presented to city council at its Jan. 13 meeting, which a 25% down payment was approved for. The overall cost of the membranes approved is \$1.8 million, which Goodall said is sounding like a more long-term goal for the city.

An activated carbon system, which would be an upgrade from the current system, would cost the city an additional \$6.6 million, which has been discussed as an option for sustainability.

However, Hulett said the carbon solution is out of reach for the time being, and that facility employees



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Caution signage warning citizens against contact with Mozingo Lake has been visible surrounding the lake since Jan. 15.

are looking at other routes to take.

"It's not really an option here," Hulett said in reference to one aspect of the filtration process. "But that's your best way to combat it."

Hulett said working with a stronger oxidant could also help in their job of filtering 5 million gallons of water per day.

SEE MOZINGO | A4

Northwest hosts anti-hazing event

MADELINE MAPES

News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

A young man passed out on the couch in a fraternity house after pledging. His skin was cold and clammy. His fraternity brothers left him on the couch after forcing him to drink multiple times throughout the night. His blood alcohol level was 0.495%.

Another young man pledged into a fraternity. During the night of his pledge, he was forced to binge drink.

That night, he was so drunk that he fell down the stairs of the fraternity house, suffering multiple internal and external injuries. He was taken to the hospital later where he eventually was pronounced brain dead and went into cardiac arrest.

Both men died from hazing in their fraternities. After their deaths, their mothers got in touch and began anti-hazing research to combat the issue. Eventually, the mothers started an anti-hazing prevention that made its way to Northwest Feb. 6.

Rae Anne Gruver and Evelyn Piazza are the mothers of the late Max Gruver and Timothy Piazza. The two mothers gave their presentation, "Love, Mom and Dad," to Northwest's Greek Life and Greek Life students from several other schools at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts.



Rae Anne Gruver shows the last picture taken with her son Max Gruver, who died as a result of hazing at Louisiana State University in September 2017, as part of an anti-hazing presentation Feb. 6 in the Performing Arts Center.

RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

"The actions taken by these hazers resulted in my son's death," Rae Anne Gruver said.

This anti-hazing convention was hosted by Northwest Greek Life as part of a weekend-long 2020 MIAA Executive Greek Leadership Retreat.

Throughout the course of the weekend visiting universities and

Greek Life at Northwest participated in several events Feb. 6-8.

Megan DeShon, the assistant director of Greek Life, said this retreat was the first ever for the MIAA and Northwest's Greek Life coordinated and hosted the entire weekend. Other universities within the MIAA were invited to participate

in the retreat.

"It was awesome. I think it went really well," DeShon said.

DeShon said the events Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 had nearly 100 people from leaders in Northwest's Greek Life and Greek Life from other universities.

SEE RETREAT | A4

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University seeks student input on laptop options

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

Keeping with the cycle of replacing student laptops every three years, the Office of Information and Technology presented its four laptop candidates for students to vote on Feb. 5-6 in the B.D. Owens Library.

The four laptops being considered this year are the Dell Latitude 3301, Dell Latitude 5400, HP Elitebook 840 G6 and HP Probook 445R G6.

The Elitebook is an updated version of the laptop full-time students use.

The laptops vary in size, weight, battery life, ports and aesthetic features like backlit keyboards and camera covers.

Manager of Technology Services Merlin Miller said the technology team selects laptops from a pool of companies with existing contracts with the University. He said he wants the newest models, but the laptops also need to be within budget because he does not

want to propose an increase to the technology fee, which was \$23.20 per credit hour for fiscal year 2020.

Based on the features preferred by students and the price range, Dell and HP sent the four samples to the University for students to interact with.

Over the course of two days, the team collected around 150 votes from students.

The Dell Latitude 3301 was the least popular with nine votes at the end of the day Feb. 6. Students said they didn't like that it didn't have a backlit keyboard and was smaller than the other options. The Dell Latitude 5400 was also relatively unpopular with 18 votes. "Usually students like the 14-inch screen," Miller said. "Anything smaller and they aren't as satisfied with them. ... The 13-inch screen they kind of didn't like, and if you really look at that machine, it has limited port options."

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

The Final Four Laptops

	Dell Latitude Model 3301	Dell Latitude Model 5400	HP Elitebook Model 840 G6	HP ProBook Model 445R G6
Display	13.3"	14"	14"	14"
Camera	Standard	Standard <i>Privacy Shutter</i>	HD 720 <i>Privacy Shutter</i>	HD 720
Microphone	Standard	Standard	Triple Array	Dual Array
Storage	265GB <i>Solid State</i>	265GB <i>Solid State</i>	265GB <i>Solid State</i>	265GB <i>Solid State</i>
Battery	Four Cell	Three Cell <i>Express Charge</i>	Three Cell <i>Long-life</i>	Three Cell <i>Long-life</i>
Keyboard	-	Backlit	Backlit <i>Spill Resistant</i>	Backlit
Ports	1 USB3	3 USB3 <i>Express Charge</i>	2 USB3 <i>Long-life</i>	3 USB3 <i>Long-life</i>
Market Price	\$1,019.00	\$1,019.00	\$1,411.92	\$899.00

SOURCE: NORTHWEST INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY
AJ BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Students snubbed by legislators at reception

LIZ SWAFFORD
News Reporter | @lizswafford3

Students from different organizations went to Jefferson City, Missouri, to advocate for higher education funding and to learn about state government Feb. 4-5, but their interviews with legislators were canceled because of the Chiefs parade.

Student Senate, for the last several years, has taken a group of students down to the state capitol to lobby and advocate for higher education funding. The students don't just have to be senators. Any student can apply, and the Governmental Affairs Committee in Student Senate chooses from those applicants.

While on the trip, the group was able to get a tour of the capitol. But, the second day they were unable to interview senators and returned to Maryville early.

Assistant Professor Luke Campbell said this was due to inclement weather. However, Student Affairs Chair for Student Senate junior James Palmer and Student Sen-



SUBMITTED | NW MISSOURIAN

A group of Northwest students traveled to Jefferson City, Missouri, Feb. 4-5 to meet with lawmakers and lobby for funding for higher education as part of the annual Student Senate Legislative Reception.

ate President senior Asma Hassan said it was due to the Kansas City Chiefs parade celebrating its 2020 Super Bowl victory.

According to the Journal of the House and the Journal of the Senate, both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly were in session Feb. 5.

Campbell said the group was still able to sit in on a session while

on their tour.

"Our State Sen. Dan Hegeman, did recognize us in the gallery and made a motion in the Senate to have us recognized, so that was something," Campbell said in an email.

Palmer had an internship in the Missouri House last year. He said this was his second year going on the trip and that he thought

many great opportunities could come of it.

"It's a very good networking opportunity to meet representatives and make our faces known. We're really the face of Northwest, so if they ever come up to Northwest for whatever reason or we ever go back down there, they recognize us as Northwest," Palmer said.

Hassan said she has attended the reception all four years she's been involved in Student Senate.

"Honestly, every year that I have gone, I just feel like I've learned something different. I've gone for four years now, and I just really loved it. The first time I went I just thought, 'I have to go every year,'" Hassan said.

Northwest students are taken specifically because the University wants to be known and wants to have a say in the fiscal year budget. Bringing people from different organizations allowed for a broader perspective. Hassan said that was one of the main reasons why they brought people who weren't on Student Senate.

"Government affairs accepts people based on the application and what they can advocate for. We try to bring as many people as we can, not only senators," Hassan said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
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POLICE BLOTTERS

for the week of Feb. 13

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 6
A summons was issued to **Logan P. Adams**, 19, **Jeremy D. Root**, 19, and **Wyatt M. Ursendowski**, 19, for possession of marijuana at Perrin Hall.

Feb. 7
A summons was issued to **Victor J. Shores** for unlawful possession of a firearm on the 900 block of North Walnut Street. There is an open investigation for harassment at Perrin Hall. A summons was issued to **Kristin S. Kirwin**, 19, and **Lydia Martin**, 19, for possession of marijuana at Perrin Hall.

Feb. 8
A summons was issued to **Christian J. Keller** for possession of drug paraphernalia at Hudson Hall. There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

Feb. 9
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Roberta Hall.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Jan. 31
There is an ongoing investigation for burglary on the 200 block of South Newton Street.

Feb. 3
There is an ongoing investigation for lost or stolen property on the 1400 block of North Country Club Road. A summons was issued to **Katie G. Carter**, 19, of Silver City, Iowa, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

Feb. 5
There is an ongoing investigation for lost or stolen property on the 1600 block of South Main Street. A summons was issued to **Andrew J. Krindler**, 27, for driving while suspended and improper display of plates on the 1400 block of South Main Street.

Feb. 6
There is an ongoing investigation for burglary on the 2000 block of East First Street.

Feb. 7
A summons was issued to **Vasu Dilwal**, 24, for driving while intoxicated, no valid driver's license and careless and imprudent driving on the 400 block of North Walnut Street. A summons was issued to **Carl D. Dosztan Jr.**, 34, of St. Joseph, Missouri, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street. A summons was issued to **Robin R. Martin**, 43, of St. Joseph, Missouri, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street. There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 600 block of North Walnut Street. There is an ongoing investigation for trespassing on the 400 block of East Davidson Square.

Feb. 8
A summons was issued to **Zachary S. Geniuk**, 19, of Kansas City, Missouri, for driving while suspended and failure to use turn signal on the 600 block of College Park Drive. A summons was issued to **Andrew R. Muir**, 30, of Marysville, Washington, for disorderly conduct, failure to comply and resisting arrest on the 300 block of North Market Street. A summons was issued to **Nicole R. Harbin**, 20, of Elkhorn, Nebraska, for minor in possession and littering on the 200 block of West Fifth Street. A summons was issued to **Karlee A. Ranville**, 19, of Lees Summit, Missouri, and **Taylor R. Mulligan**, 20, of Kansas City, Missouri, for minor in possession, disorderly conduct and possession of a fake I.D. on the 400 block of North Buchanan Street. A summons was issued to **Morgan P. Dvorak**, 19, for driving while intoxicated, possession of marijuana and improper display of license plates on the 600 block of South Main Street.

MOZINGO CONTINUED FROM A1

The facility is made up of one building built in 1959, which has undergone several renovations, as well as a newer building housing filtration and intake from the local water source, Mozingo Lake. The facility houses two water towers and uses a combination of sodium permanganate, chlorine dioxide, and a Kruger flocculator to remove manganese, taste and odors. The Kruger flocculator is the filtration system, which is what the \$6.6 million carbon system would replace. There are also industrial contributors who aid with pretreatment of the water to test for quality and that levels are up to standards and state regulation. The 61-year-old building is

where certain testing is conducted for water quality, including every two hours for chlorine levels, field tests on other chemicals in the filtration process, and field testing for mycobacteria and cyanobacteria that is sent to a lab as frequently as four times a day. The concern for these bacterias, which can pose potential harm to humans and animals, rose after the detection of potentially harmful algae blooms in Mozingo Lake. No harmful chemicals or bacteria are present in the city's drinking water, which is meeting Missouri DNR and EPA standards. To be further knowledgeable on this issue of algae blooms, Assistant City Manager Ryan Heiland, Goodall and Hulett attended the Great Plains and Midwest Harmful Algae Blooms workshop Feb. 4 and 5, where more than 200 attendees from 20 different states. The conference showed

that algae blooms are not unique to Maryville or Mozingo, but rather a wide-spread issue that several communities and municipalities are learning to combat and monitor in regards to local water supplies. "(The conference) discussed best practices, both in identifying issues and challenges with nutrients forming harmful algae blooms," McDanel said. "It is a wide-scale issue." The algae bloom workshop was presented by the U.S. EPA, which reported that the midwest region (Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri) reported that 78% of its lakes monitored by state or federal government are suffering from blue-green algae blooms. The midwest region additionally has 470 labor projects focused on agricultural runoff and controlling chemicals in the water. "It was a really informative conference," Heiland said at the Feb.

10 council meeting. "I'm glad we went." Throughout the tour of the water facility, members of the council and those who attended the EPA conference expressed concerns and asked the tour leaders several questions to better understand the water plant. Hulett said a problem citizens don't generally understand is that when changes are made at the water facility, it takes time, sometimes days, to see that change in the public supply in town. "When it's people in more rural areas, they can see an even greater wait time for that change," Hulett said. As city staff continues to look at what changes are more immediate necessities and which ones are longer-term solutions, the warning signage remains at Mozingo Lake advising against contact with the potentially harmful water.

RETREAT CONTINUED FROM A1

Some of the other events in the retreat were a keynote speaker about risk management, Lori Hart, break-out sessions with advisers on campus that gave presentations on various topics applicable to Greek Life and several other activities. "A lot of what we focus on in Greek Life is to make our community safer," DeShon said. Other universities that attended the event included Emporia State University, Missouri Western State University, Baker University, Pittsburg State University, University of Central Missouri, University of Ne-

braska at Kearney, Missouri Southern State University, Washburn University and Northeastern State University out of Oklahoma said they learned an abundance of useful information that they plan to take back to their universities or groups that they are associated with. "I learned a lot that I actually didn't know before," an Emporia State student said after the presentation. "I have been to hazing presentations before ... but, like, this one was different for some reason. This one kind of touched my heart a little bit." Peyton Hobbs, a member of Phi Mu at Northwest, also had positive things to say about the presentation. "I thought it was very infor-

mational. I thought it was amazing that they could come up here and share their stories considering how horrible they sounded," Hobbs said. "I thought it was very informational to hear, like, a mother's point of view." In an email, DeShon, said there were over 700 Northwest Greek Life members in attendance at the presentation. "I think it is so important for students to hear the other side of hazing. It's not just about exactly what's happening to the members and it's not about what's happening to the chapters, but it's also about ... the ripple effect--the impact that it has on everyone involved," DeShon said when com-

menting on the "Love, Mom and Dad" presentation. More than half of college students involved with sports, clubs, teams and organizations experience some form of hazing, and 47% of students experience hazing before coming to college, according to stophazing.org. According to hazingprevention.org, examples of hazing include but are not limited to: forced activities for new recruits to prove their worth, forced or required consumption of alcohol or other substances, eating spicy foods, forced or required hardships such as staying awake and physical labor, humiliation, beatings and illegal activities.



KENDRICK CALFEE | NW MISSOURIAN

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong invited Missouri Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor Erin Leuker to lead the first installment of training for local law enforcement on cases involving abuse. Future training will include discussion on sexual assault cases.

Sheriff holds training for abuse cases

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor I @KoalaCalfree

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Children and Family Center of Northwest Missouri to provide a series of training sessions for local law enforcement and those working with the court system. The first installment of a series of training sessions, titled "Investigating and Testifying in Child Abuse Cases," was held Feb. 6 in the Nodaway County Administration Building, where attendees underwent a four-hour program. There will be two additional rounds of training that prosecutors, advocates, health professionals and law enforcement agencies will be invited to attend at future dates. Strong said the purpose of the training sessions is to encourage trauma-informed care for victims of child abuse and sexual assault. "We entered this with a few things in mind," Strong said. "We are hoping that through this training, and I might add that it is pretty top-tier, these cases will be handled with a better approach." At the Feb. 6 training, Missouri Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor Erin Lueker led a presentation on the process of investigation for special cases, placing emphasis

on knowledge of legal terminology, nuances of testifying and steps law enforcement can take to ensure proper and effective prosecution. A problem Leuker said people are generally unknowledgeable about is the process of disclosure, or how victims disclose information. She said it is not generally a single-event incident, but rather a process, much like in the stages of grief. When describing the process, Leuker said that many victims don't believe themselves to be victims at all or that they have a deep emotional connection to their abusers, which can complicate testimonies from the victim. She mentioned it is increasingly important for law enforcement to realize recanting of testimony or going back on original statements does not always indicate falsehoods. The training was mostly lecture-based with some interactive moments that helped attendees engage in the meaning behind terms and raise awareness of victim behavior and mindsets in the trial process. Leuker said there are many systemic issues involving crimes against children that everyone should be aware of. She said an aspect of her job she enjoys is traveling to train localities how to deviate from recurring issues and pro-

viding solutions to those problems. "Everything in this presentation is designed so that you have a better, more thorough investigation so that at the end, when I call you to testify, you are able to do so effectively, and I can get that conviction," Leuker said. Lack of resources and child deaths were common issues discussed and accessed in the Feb. 6 training. Each issue touched on was recognized as a problem everywhere, not unique to Missouri or the localities attending the training. However, a study published by the Child Fatality Review Board in Jefferson City, Missouri, in January shows that in the state of Missouri, children the age of 3 and younger are most subject to child fatalities in the state. According to the 2019 executive report by the Child Fatality Review Board, those who studied the data theorized that children of very young ages can't communicate as well, have less of a chance to tell someone they are being hurt and are easily isolated from others who may notice. Leuker, who serves on the Child Fatality Review board, said unless someone actually sees the child being abused, or at least indicators of abuse and neglect, those children are much less likely to see an investigation.

"Of the 3-year-olds who died in the state of Missouri in the last five years ... the majority of those cases had at least one contact with the state agency before that child was murdered," Leuker said. It was a statistic that shocked local law enforcement in the room, and Leuker said it means that somewhere along the way, the state is missing opportunities to save those children. Strong said that is one reason the training provided Feb. 6 was necessary. "We knew this was the next necessary step," Strong said. Chillicothe Police, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Nodaway County Sheriff's Office, state prosecutors, Maryville Public Safety, Worth County Sheriff's Department, Children's Division investigators and local victim advocates were all represented at the Feb. 6 training. Strong has reached out to local departments, organizations and professionals, voicing concerns for further awareness in cases involving abuse victims. Collaborating with Missouri Prosecution Services and the Children and Family Center of Northwest Missouri, further trainings will be held on different topics that fall under the umbrella of cases involving abuse and sexual assault cases.

Trump's acquittal not at all surprising

ZACH CULJAT Columnist @TheMissourian



As if the United States could not possibly be any more divided, the rift deepened this past week with the culmination of the Senate impeachment trial, only the third in the country's history.

Democrats, as you may recall, had no issue passing the two articles of impeachment in the House of Representatives in December. President Donald Trump was impeached on abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in light of foreign aid being withheld from the Ukraine and a subsequent investigation into Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden.

Almost immediately, the Republican-controlled Senate vowed to shoot the whole effort down, labeling the move as a hoax or simply a partisan ploy to get the controversial leader that currently occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue out.

Try as they might, the Democrats knew going into last month's trials there was no way the GOP would have enough senators jump ship and vote against the president. Calling witnesses was another motion that failed to make it through the Senate chambers, meaning key figures, like former National Security Adviser John Bolton, never got the chance to testify. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., even held the articles off from the Senate floor for weeks, claiming several times that the trial would not be granted due process.

So why did Democrats make the effort in the first place? I'm not often one to be political, but this whole thing has me flustered.

I will say one curveball had me doing a double take. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, voted to convict the president on abuse of power — a move that made him the first senator in the history of our democracy to vote against his own political party. As for what led him to do so, Romney said he wouldn't have done what was right had he crossed the aisle.

"Were I to ignore the evidence that has been presented and disregard what I believe my oath and the Constitution demands of me for the sake of a partisan end, it would, I fear, expose my character to history's rebuke and the censure of my own conscience," Romney said in an address to his fellow senators.

The first article of impeachment resulted in a 52-48 vote to acquit. Likewise, the article concerning obstruction of Congress also failed to convict, falling right along party lines, 53-47.

Nothing sums up my feelings about all this malarkey, to use a Joe Biden term, more than the conclusion of the State of the Union address — also known as "the rip heard 'round the world." Trump refused to shake hands with Pelosi. Then came the big moment, at the end of Trump's address: Pelosi took her copy of the address and ripped it in two. If that doesn't equate their relationship to a couple of second graders roughhousing on the playground, I don't know what does.

The bottom line: Hope and pray to God we don't have another impeachment for a long while.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Missouri lawmakers need to revisit funding priorities

Led by members of Student Senate and organized particularly by the senate's Governmental Affairs Committee, a group of Northwest students traveled to Jefferson City, Missouri, Feb. 4-5 to lobby state lawmakers to increase funding allocated to higher education funding.

The group made the well-intentioned trip to the capitol in hopes of lobbying for much-needed change. Instead, they were met with indifference, or perhaps more accurately, they weren't met at all.

After spending Feb. 4 touring capitol facilities and Jefferson City landmarks, preparing for a day full of lobbying Feb. 5, the group was told Tuesday afternoon the legislative session scheduled for Wednesday had been canceled, due, at least in part, to inclement weather.

"I think part of the idea for them canceling session on Wednesday was also due to the Chiefs parade, if I'm being real honest with you," said Assistant Professor Luke Campbell, who served as a sponsor on the trip to Jefferson City. "I think that factored into their decision making on that too."

Inclement weather and a parade for a professional football team — two things that have combined to cancel exactly zero days of classes at Northwest this semester — caused state lawmakers to abandon a day's worth of legislative sessions and forced the group of Northwest students to return to Maryville empty-handed.

Northwest's ill-timed trip to the capitol and subsequent snubbing by lawmakers was, of course, just one instance, but it depicts the broader state of Missouri's governing body, one that has sat on its hands as the state has slipped well-below the national av-

erage in higher education funding, failing to consider students' voice and the state's future in the process.

Missouri ranked No. 46 in the U.S. in per-capita state fiscal support out of all the higher education facilities in 2019, according to Politifact. Funding analyzed through full-time equivalent enrollment, which provides a more specific view of how state funds are used to serve current students, shows the state ranks slightly better at 38 out of 50, but still below average, according to the website.

Northwest, in particular, received \$5,678 in state funds per student based on 2017 enrollment data applied to appropriations from the fiscal year 2018, according to the Missouri Department of Higher Education's yearly higher education factbook, published in February 2019. That figure puts Northwest at sixth out of 10 public four-year universities analyzed, trailing the likes of Lincoln University, Truman State and Central Missouri.

Representing a University with below-average state appropriations within a state that seems to pride itself on a lack of higher education funding, the group of students, which seems to care more about the future of Missouri than its own lawmakers, were not heard. The snubbing was on-par with how state lawmakers have addressed higher education funding for much of the last decade — by failing to address it at all.

State Sen. Dan Hegeman, R-12th District, did make a motion to recognize the group's efforts on the Senate floor, Campbell said. But the recognition feels hollow from a group of lawmakers who have given no effort themselves.

YOUR VIEW:

Do you think the state lawmakers in Missouri should be doing more to support higher education?



"Yes. You want to get into the top half (of states) because education is the future."

- Luke Bowen | Senior Finance Management



"I think they should, I feel like it would help, and it would be a benefit (to students). I feel like it would possibly give students more resources and help them along the way when they're trying to go into their occupation."

- Mariah Ross | Freshman Criminology



"I think so because, like, every year, tuition money is just going up and up and up. I mean, obviously, there's like a certain criterion that they have to meet, but why is it that Missouri is (low) in the (higher education) ranking?"

- Nate Swann | Senior Business Management

Online petitions are overused, ineffective

NATHAN ENGLISH Columnist @ThananEnglish



The Kansas City Chiefs won 2020 Super Bowl 31-20. It was a moment of ecstasy for myself — I may or may not have cried a lot — and many other students that had waited their whole lives to see their favorite sports team reach the pinnacle. The Chiefs made plans for a parade Feb. 5, and students subsequently started sharing and signing a change.org petition to try and get Northwest to cancel classes.

This change.org petition represents the muddying of a platform that was once used for powerful petitions for powerful reasons.

"Cancel Classes Wednesday at Northwest" was the infamous petition. It's nice that the title got

right to the point. While well-intentioned, this petition and others like it represent a weird and annoying reality that the most trivial things can become change.org petitions, and it needs to stop.

As of Feb. 8, the petition had 3,417 signatures. For context, Northwest has 7,104 students enrolled, but of course, not all who signed the petition are students. The official Northwest Twitter account then sent out a tweet explaining that Northwest will be open, which was wholly unnecessary on their part. Students subsequently got into Northwest's mentions and voiced their frustration; some took it too far, as expected, and others responded cordially but clearly upset.

The University didn't make a decision to cancel classes for a parade for a professional sports team based on an online petition — big shocker on that one. The bottom line: Northwest stayed

open because it is an institution meant for education, and administration believes that the best way to educate students is to actually have class on days without inclement weather.

Some petitions filled out on the platform have been over serious issues and sparked real change. There was a change.org petition in 2012 that led to Seventeen Magazine pledging to no longer photoshop their models, thus helping encourage positive body image.

A more recent example is the case of death row inmate Rodney Reed, whom evidence shows was wrongfully convicted of a 1998 rape and murder of a Stacey Stites. Reed's case garnered national attention in part because of a change.org petition with nearly 750,000 signatures stating that Reed was wrongfully convicted. Many rallied around Reed, including Kim Kardashian, and Reed was granted a stay of exe-

cution and is awaiting a new trial.

Obviously canceling classes is not on the same level as trying to get an inmate off of death row, and change.org petitions do not always need to be as serious, but muddying the platform with somewhat useless petitions does nothing to help the minor issue they are created to solve.

Most students, if honest with themselves, knew that if Northwest was going to cancel classes it wasn't going to happen because of a petition. The petition did about as much as those people that tweet at UPD to cancel classes every time they see a snowflake does.

Change.org can have a real impact, but unnecessary petitions over minor issues weaken the power and purpose of the platform and cause people grief when the petition inevitably fails.

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SUDOKU

By MetroCreative

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HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Align yourself with the movers and shakers, Aries. Sometimes it’s not what you know but who you know. Find a solid team and stick with them.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, if you’re already running on fumes, it may not be possible for you to tackle any additional tasks this week. Make some hard cuts and you’ll be better for it.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You have several weeks to understand how recent changes will affect you, Gemini. You may need to get a few new friends in your circle of supporters.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, don’t be surprised when someone from your past approaches you for some advice. You may not have all the answers, but you can help guide this person in the right direction.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, some new information has put you in a better position to make an important decision. These details have come just in the nick of time.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may need to make some important decisions regarding your finances in the days ahead. It’s now or never to square away your short- and long-term budget.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
An important relationship is on the cusp of reaching a milestone, Libra. Enjoy this special time and make every effort to commemorate it in a unique way.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Find a way to cool your jets for the time being, Scorpio. Extra pressure may have you feeling the stress, and you may not be putting your best self forward.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a passing comment rings true to you this week and commands your immediate attention. You do not want to let any opportunities pass over the next few days.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Learn how to count the small blessings in your life, Capricorn. Doing so will help you overcome a challenging issue that may pop up shortly.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
You may need to look inward and make changes before you start suggesting others make their own modifications, Aquarius. Be honest in your personal assessment.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
There are a few things you are still trying to uncover about a new person in your life, Pisces. Keep digging because the reveal is worth it.

Valentine’s Day pizza



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

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CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

Last Week’s Solutions

8	2	6	9	1	4	5	7	3
7	5	9	6	3	2	8	1	4
1	3	4	7	8	5	2	6	9
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2	6	8	4	7	1	9	3	5
5	7	1	2	9	6	3	4	8
4	8	3	1	5	7	6	9	2
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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Public broadcaster
 - 4. Hit lightly
 - 7. Keyboard key
 - 10. Grain
 - 11. Make a mistake
 - 12. To the __ degree
 - 13. Endure without complaint
 - 15. Chinese-American actress Ling
 - 16. Edible stomach lining
 - 19. Sunrooms
 - 21. Feared
 - 23. Most eager
 - 24. Excessive chatting session
 - 25. MLB ace
 - 26. Major Central European river
 - 27. Muscular weaknesses
 - 30. Where seedlings germinate
 - 34. Former monetary unit of the EU
 - 35. Personal ads abbreviation
 - 36. Mythical animal
 - 41. Members of Orthodox Jewish sect
 - 45. German city
 - 46. Algerian coastal city
 - 47. Military men
 - 50. Salt of sulfuric acid
 - 54. Rhododendrons
 - 55. Mixture
 - 56. Recommended quantities
 - 57. 007’s creator
 - 59. Men
 - 60. Kids need it
 - 61. Midway between east and east-northeast
 - 62. OJ trial judge
 - 63. Yes vote
 - 64. USDA branch that manages the FCIC
 - 65. Create with cloth

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. English seaport
 - 2. What’s owed
 - 3. Sound systems
 - 4. Elections feature them
 - 5. Southern constellation
 - 6. London and Brooklyn are two
 - 7. One-time Ugandan capital
 - 8. Attacked with bombs
 - 9. Rebuke
 - 13. Expression of disappointment
 - 14. A way to work the soil
 - 17. The human foot
 - 18. Sun up in New York
 - 20. A small island
 - 22. Abnormal rattling sound
 - 27. Make lively
 - 28. A team’s best pitcher
 - 29. It goes on the floor
 - 31. Not good
 - 32. Peyton’s little brother
 - 33. Barrier that holds back water
 - 37. Move quickly
 - 38. Deteriorate with age
 - 39. Colorless crystalline compound
 - 40. Cheekier
 - 41. Expresses praise or joy
 - 42. Famed boxing promoter
 - 43. Cured sausages
 - 44. Fill with air or gas
 - 47. Angry
 - 48. Chemistry prefix
 - 49. Practitioner of Jamaican religion
 - 51. Softly bright or radiant
 - 52. Buffer solution used to separate nucleic acids
 - 53. First responder group
 - 58. Defensive nuclear weapon



Patrick Harr was presented with an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Northwest after serving as a volunteer physician for Northwest Athletics for the last 46 years.

Lifelong Bearcat finally gets degree

‘Doc Harr’ honored amid 46th year of service

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

The two men stood at the center of Bearcat Arena Feb. 8 in front of a crowd of close to 2,000 people, clad in dark green ceremonial gowns. They were perhaps overdressed for the pair of basketball games the arena hosted that day, but their outfits were appropriate for the commencement in between.

One man had spent more than four decades looking after the Northwest community, its well-being and development. He’d overseen a number of changes in the 2010s as a high-ranking official at the University. He’d dedicated his life to the realm of higher education and the students who occupied it. The other man was President John Jasinski.

Standing alongside Jasinski was Patrick Harr, who worked as a full-time physician in Maryville from 1974-2012, who had been a volunteer athletic trainer for Northwest Athletics and who had been vital to the Northwest community for most of his adult life.

But at this moment, in the middle of the court at Bearcat Arena Feb. 8, Jasinki’s job seemed harder. He had to put into words the reach of Harr’s impact, one that Athletic Director Andy Peterson said couldn’t be calculated.

Jasinski listed Harr’s accomplishments in front of 1,712 fans at the arena. The president read off a number of awards Harr had won over the last few decades, within the medical field and outside of it. He listed a group of organizations Harr had worked with, a few that he served as the president of. And he eulogized Harr’s time on Northwest’s Board of Regents, where Harr served for seven years, five of which as the board’s chair.

Under Harr’s leadership, Jasinski said, there was reduced debt and strengthened enrollment. There was the birth of several offices and professional schools. There were important campaigns launched and new facilities built — two of which bore Harr’s last name.

“I think you get the point,” Jasinski said.

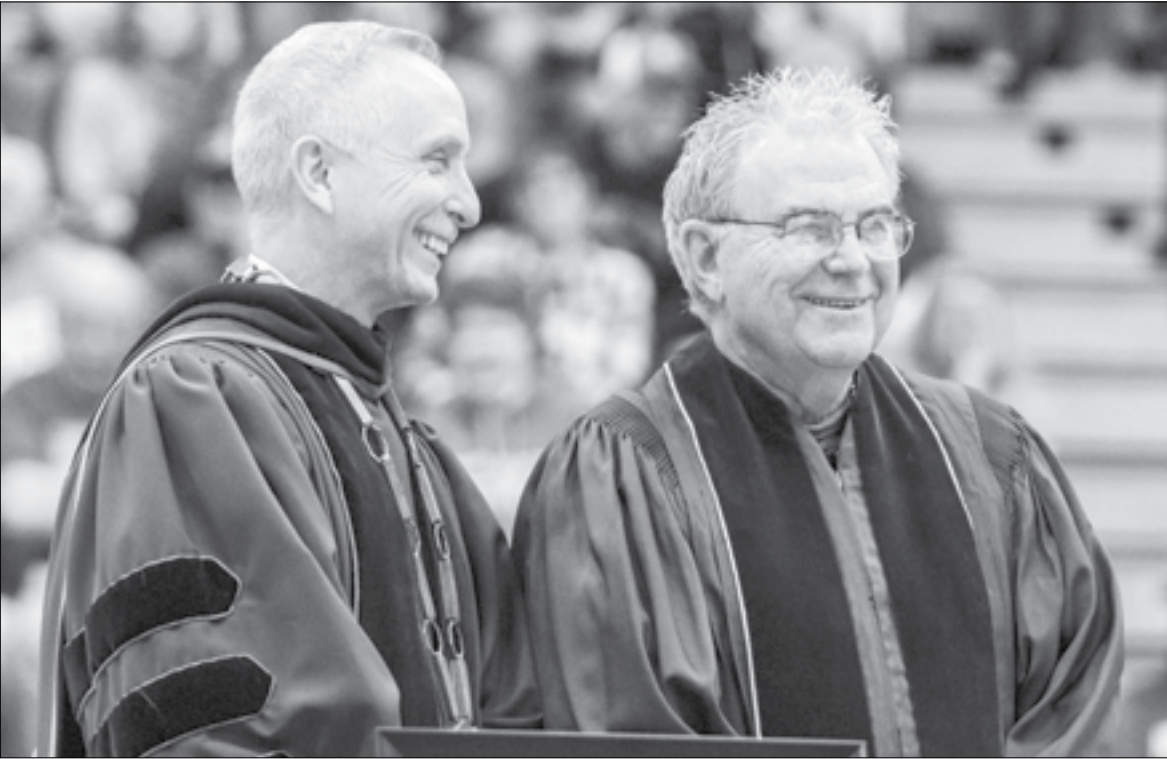
After everything Harr had done for Northwest over the last four decades, the ceremony was Northwest’s gift to him. It was a bucket-list item for the 75-year-old who had crossed everything else off. The ceremony gave Harr a degree from the school that he dedicated much of his life to.

Jasinski presented Harr with the honorary degree to the cadence of a standing ovation from the crowd at Bearcat Arena. Harr posed for pictures with his family at center court. And then he stayed for the men’s basketball game that followed his own commencement because that’s what Harr has done for the last 46 years.

“The thing that bothers me most is how fast it went by,” Harr said.

Perhaps Harr was never officially a Bearcat until Feb. 8, but he’d been embedded into the fabric of the campus and community since he could talk.

Harr was born in Maryville in the mid-1940s and has left only intermittently since. Harr started attending Horace Mann Laboratory School when he was 4 years old and didn’t stop until after his sophomore year of high school when the University decided to close Horace Mann, forcing Harr and his classmates to transfer to Maryville



President John Jasinski presented Patrick Harr with an honorary degree after Harr dedicated much of the last 50 years to Northwest. Harr served on Northwest’s Board of Regents from 2013-2019 and has worked as a volunteer physician for Northwest Athletics since 1974, when he returned to Maryville after a 2-year stint with the Air Force.

High School.

“I never forgave the Board of Regents for that,” Harr said.

And so Harr enrolled at Maryville High School, where he took a crop of classes that his dad wanted him to take, where he learned more about writing and English than he did anywhere else.

After graduating from Maryville in 1962, Harr enrolled at Northwest and studied on a pre-med track before transferring to the University of Missouri-Columbia after two years to pursue his medical degree, one he earned in 1969 before starting a three-year residency in Rochester, New York.

Harr’s residency in New York led him to a two-year stint in the Air Force, stationed at a base in Florida. As a physician on a military base, Harr cared for legions of troops and their families. And as a physician in Florida, he was the primary care provider for thousands of retirees. His stint there, though, prepared him for what lied ahead, for professional life in Maryville, where he always knew he’d return.

And though his professors at Mizzou advised against it, he didn’t have much interest in practicing medicine elsewhere.

“They always told us in med school, ‘You can’t go back to your hometown,’” Harr said. “And I was gonna prove ‘em wrong.”

In his 38 years as a full-time physician, Harr experienced the highs and lows that come with being a practicing physician for 38 years. He delivered babies. He helped deliver miracles. And, at times, he had to deliver the worst news a waiting room full of loved ones could hear from a doctor who had done all he could.

There isn’t much about being a physician that is easy, but for Harr, losing patients was the most difficult part of a demanding job. It took him a long time to come to terms with it.

“It’s like the antithesis of why you practice in the first place,” Harr said.

At 75 years old, the worst of it is behind Harr. Though he still works weekly volunteer shifts at the walk-in clinic at Mosaic Life Car, Harr stopped working as a full-time physician in 2012, focusing much of his professional life on his work with

Northwest and Maryville Athletics, on what, for Harr, is the best of medicine.

For a retired man, Harr works a lot. He started in his role as the de facto team physician for every team in Maryville on Day 1 in 1974. He hasn’t stopped working since.

Things, of course, are different now. Harr is no longer logging 12 or 14 hours days like he did in the 70s and 80s and 90s and 2000s. He’s no longer working around the clock to ensure the best care for his patients and for the city’s athletes. But he is working nonetheless, usually driving to Maryville from his new permanent address at Table Rock Lake nearly every weekend during football and basketball season.

This is what Harr has done for close to five decades. He doesn’t miss games, or at least, he tries hard not to.

Even in retirement, even as a volunteer, Harr is constantly present.

And after nearly a half-century of service, the work has still yet to fully catch up with the physician. At 75, he’s mostly as energized at work as he’s ever been, he said. Working with 18-to-22-year-olds has served as a fountain of youth, as a constant source of energy from a demographic that rarely lacks it.

“It’s like medicine,” Harr said.

Things, of course, have changed since Harr first started working with Northwest and Maryville athletes in the 70s. They have been changed for a while.

Medicine has evolved. Technology has transformed. Coaching staffs have departed and new staffs have replaced them. A fresh crop of athletes cycle in every four years. So much has changed, Harr said, but some things haven’t.

“Relationships with athletes stay the same,” Harr said.

Harr has slowed down in the last decade, retreating from the daily grind of a full-time physician, but has no plans to stop working, he said, in what seems like an ironic sentiment coming from a retiree.

Harr’s logic, though, is two-fold lies beneath the surface. A part of his insistence on working, his perpetual presence on the sidelines of Northwest sporting events, is the joy and energy he derives from doing his job and watching

athletes compete.

Another part of it comes from what Harr has lived through, what he probably shouldn’t have. Harr survived a bout with colon cancer a decade ago, one that left him on life support for a full week after surgery, he said. The close call reenergized him.

Harr said he wasn’t sure what the reason might be, though it seemed evident in Bearcat Arena Feb. 8 as the physician stood next to those whose lives he had changed near the outskirts of the campus that he’d spent close to five decades helping fix.

There was Peterson, the athletic director who was a student-athlete in the 2000s. There was Head Athletic Trainer Kelly Quinlin, who Harr had mentored. There was former Head Athletic Trainer David Colt, who worked alongside Harr for close to three decades.

Separately, the three tried to orate the effect Harr has had on Northwest and its inhabitants. Collectively, they depicted it.

“No one in the history of Bearcat Athletics and this institution has had a larger impact on the lives of our athletes and our athletic department than Dr. Patrick B. Harr,” Peterson said.

“We are forever grateful,” Quinlin said. “And on a personal note, I’d just like to say how much you’ve touched my life and my family’s lives and so many people that are here in this gym.”

“All I can say is thank you for being the best friend an athletic trainer could have,” Colt said.

In some ways, the ceremony served as a nod to Harr’s service, a celebration of a job well done, though one not done yet. After 46 years of caring for and embedding himself into the lives of thousands of student-athletes, Harr is focused on Year 47.

Harr wishes that more people could live a professional life like the one he has lived. If he had a do-over, it would be to do it over. He is content and yet yearnful, pouring himself into Athletics, giving back to a community that he has not stopped looking after since 1974.

The Timeline of Patrick Harr

1948:

Started school at Horace Mann

1962:

Graduated from Maryville High School

1969:

Graduated from medical school at the University of Missouri

1974:

Returns to Maryville and opens private practice; starts working with Northwest and Maryville athletics

2012:

Retires as a full-time physician, continues volunteer work with Athletics

2013:

Appointed to Northwest’s Board of Regents

2019:

Retires from Board of Regents

2020:

Receives honorary degree from Northwest Missouri State University



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN
Patrick Harr and John Jasinski.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Step Afrika!, hosted by Student Activities Council, performed Feb. 5 in the Ron Houston Performing Arts Center. Step Afrika! last performed at Northwest in 2017.

Step Afrika! makes return to Northwest

SARA ROBKE
A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

The sound of drums echoed through the auditorium. Stomping feet and clapping hands from both the audience and the performers were united together in rhythm. The performers on stage danced to the beat, not only incorporating their hands and feet, but the entirety of their body. Legs kicked high in the air and arms formed a pattern of up and down, never resting.

Step Afrika! performed Jan. 5 at the Ron Houston Performing Arts Center. According to its website, Step Afrika! is the first professional dance company in the world dedicated to what they call “stepping.” Stepping is a type of percus-

sive dance that uses the whole body as an instrument.

The performers in Step Afrika! are made up of African American college graduates who were involved in different sororities and fraternities.

“Stepping helps students socially and academically,” said Emerald Holman, one of the performers. “It’s a spirit of community.”

Step Afrika! continued to have this “spirit of community” throughout its performance by encouraging audience participation. The audience would clap to keep the beat and were inspired to yell and stomp their feet or even jump out of their seat if something they enjoyed happened. Volunteers were

also called up to the stage to learn stepping moves.

Throughout the program, performers would share fun facts about Step Afrika!. They shared facts about their dancing, such as Zulu tribal dancing and the South African Gumboot dance.

One of the performers said that originally, gumboots were worn to protect the workers’ feet. The workers would use them as a form of communication, since they would be from different parts of Africa. This is called percussive communication.

Jasmyn French, a student at Northwest, said she liked dancing and learning about the culture. Hailey Rosemann, another student at Northwest, said she also enjoyed

the stories that were incorporated into the show.

Garrison Kennedy, the director of events at Student Activities Council, said that Step Afrika! had been on campus three years ago, in 2017.

“They bring something to the Northwest table that we don’t really get to witness,” Kennedy said. “Northwest, I think, encourages multiculturalism, and this adds something to that.”

SAC President Kyle Harris said that the turnout had been great then in 2017. While at the National Association for Campus Activities Conference, SAC booked Step Afrika! once again for this semester. Kennedy said that Step Afri-

ka! is an inspiration to all, not just dancers or steppers or even athletes.

“Just watching them proves that anyone can do what they want to do when they’re passionate about it,” Kennedy said.

Both Harris and Kennedy agreed that the audience turnout was fantastic.

“Especially considering the Chiefs parade,” Kennedy said. “The audience was also really engaging.”

Initially, Kennedy said that his favorite part of the show was the whole thing. While smiling and laughing, he then said that the Zulu tribal dance and the clothing were his favorite.

Step Afrika! will continue its tour around the United States.

IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NW HORSEMAN’S ASSOCIATION



MARTINA PASCUZZO | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman Rebecca Frick, secretary of Northwest Horseman’s Association, a new equestrian club active since fall 2019, practiced horsemanship patterns Feb. 11 under the guidance of adviser, English instructor C.J. Holthaus.

THE STROLL- Your Bearcat likes Valentine’s Day

Halloween consumes the entire month of October. Christmas gets its own season and a collection of recycled songs. Daylight saving time is celebrated two separate times a year. So why is Valentine’s Day resigned to one day in, like, the third-worst month of the year?

Some people are probably overjoyed by the fact that Valentine’s Day only comes once a year. They probably look forward to Feb. 15, when the candy goes on clearance and the flower shops cut payroll. I am not one of those people.

I, for one, depend on an endless supply of those tiny heart-shaped pieces of chalk that say stuff like “Be Mine” and also “Be Mine.” Chocolate covered strawberries are my favorite food group. And nothing is as exciting as biting into chocolate from a heart-shaped box, not knowing if it’ll taste like caramel or soap, because that’s all they really fill those chocolates with, caramel or soap. If I was anymore pro-Valentine’s Day, I’d be dating it.

I think, more than anything, Valentine’s Day proves every year there are two types of people in

this world. There are people who like Valentine’s Day, and there are select single people. And I’m not saying that every single person dislikes Valentine’s Day, but it’s like the whole rectangle and square situation. Every square’s a rectangle but not every rectangle is overly upset about being single in the middle of February, or something like that.

Look, everyone knows that Valentine’s Day is at least maybe half-way invented by consumerism, probably pushed every year by Hershey’s and Jared and Russell Stover and a hundred other companies named after old white guys. But pointing that out doesn’t make you interesting, and it sure doesn’t get you dinner reservations for Friday.

Valentine’s Day is like Thanksgiving without politics. It’s like New Year’s Eve, except cooler, because you don’t have to start going to the gym the next morning. It’s like daylight saving time except it’s a real holiday. So maybe just embrace it?

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian. Submit a Stroller to northwestmissourian@gmail.com

Campus welcomes group of school choirs

SARA ROBKE
A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

High school show and jazz choirs from Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska all met together Feb. 8 for the annual Show/Jazz Choir Festival.

Seventeen high school groups competed with one another throughout the day. Schools including Maryville High School, Oak Park High School, Smithville High School and others from Nebraska and Kansas all were involved in the festival. Northwest Celebrations, a full-year choir made up of Northwest students, concluded the festival with its own show before announcing the finalists.

Northwest Celebrations is in charge of events such as the Yuletide Feast, the Spring Show Choir and the Jazz/Show Choir Festival.

Lillian Flanery, a fifth-year senior, has been involved with Northwest Celebrations for two years.

“The Northwest Celebrations show is really for encouraging students looking for colleges who have show choir,” Flanery said.

In an email, Brian Lanier, a vocal music professor at Northwest, explained how the day is prepared. Northwest Celebration is in charge of hosting the choirs on campus, the judges, the crowd, and even their own performance.

“Invitations are sent out in August to potential choirs and registration details follow,” Lanier said. “The choirs arrive and we have a day of awesome performances.”

Both the high schoolers and students in Northwest Celebrations are receiving skills throughout the festival in this manner.

“The students who come here to perform get an enormous amount of experience and positive support,” Lanier said. “The Northwest students in my choir get the opportunity to observe and learn about the way teachers develop choral programs.”

The high school groups are able to use the equipment they need from Northwest, such as high risers, a piano and even a drum set. The set up itself on the day of the festival takes an hour and 45 minutes.

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RIVARLY
CONTINUED FROM A12

But McCollum and company aren’t letting on to any increased focus or sense of urgency. The Bearcats’ hopes of becoming the first team in MIAA history to win seven consecutive regular season titles may hinge on their next two weeks of play, with two pairs of matchups against Southern and Pittsburg State (9-13, 5-8 MIAA) looming. They are preparing for the increasingly vital matchups with the same consistently calm manner they have applied all season. “We just gotta play well,” McCollum said. “I mean, you can’t control the conference implica — like, you have to play well to win the game, so it’s, again, things you don’t need to worry about. ... If you just worry about what you can control then the results will take care of themselves.” These Lions, though, are different than the version of Missouri Southern that beat Northwest in three out of four matchups from 2017-2018. There is no C.J. Carr, the former dynamic point guard that led the Lions in scoring in each of Southern’s wins. But there is Cam

SPEED
CONTINUED FROM A12

“I just had fun with it; I got the crowd clapping,” Shanklin said. “At that moment I just had some more adrenaline.” “It was cool to see the team lift her up,” Masters said. “To see that they had a hand in her success is pretty cool.” Senior Jordan Hammond, who scored a personal best in the women’s pentathlon, was another athlete that posted national best marks. Hammond finished with a final point total of 3,717, which vaults her into the top five scores in the country. Perhaps the most feel-good story of the day for the Bearcats came via thrower Josh Warner. The senior was a program veteran that left Hughes Fieldhouse with a win. Warner won the men’s shot put with a throw of 16.44 meters, which, Warner said, is the third-best throw he has ever had during a competition. The win in men’s shot put was the fifth-year senior’s first win at an NCAA Division II meet. “It was good to go out on top,” Warner said. The road to victory, Warner said, and his time at Northwest has not always been easy. Warner remembers a time before the Bearcats had the opportunity to practice in Hughes Fieldhouse when they were practicing in Lamkin Activity Center during the early hours of the morning. He said that the restrictions of Lamkin made practicing for indoor season extremely dif-

POSTSEASON
CONTINUED FROM A12

Northwest has won three of its last four games. Prior to the Jan. 30 win over Newman, the Bearcats had lost five straight. Of those five, four came against teams that are in the top half of the conference. For Northwest to pile a win, or perhaps two, on to the one over Lincoln, the Bearcats are following the phrase Meyer has lived by over the past few weeks. That, he said, is the key to the ‘Cats’ success going forward. “Relentless aggression,” Meyer said. “Tired of that yet?” “I don’t think that we changed our process or our mindset,” junior guard Zoie Hayward said about the recent success. “It’s just about coming in every day knowing that we have to get better and going into

Martin. Martin, of course, is the 6-foot-9 junior forward who led Southern to an NCAA tournament berth a season ago, one that ended in a 12-point loss to Northwest in the Central Region Championship March 19 in Bearcat Arena. The 240-point forward has averaged 22 points and 9 rebounds per game this season while leading Southern to an 11-2 mark in the conference. In the days of Carr, McCollum was always able to counter with former point guard Justin Pitts, the three-time MIAA Player of the Year who kept Carr from winning the award. Now, though, McCollum has no definitive frame to matchup against Martin. There are no 6-foot-9, 240-pound post players on Northwest’s roster. There aren’t many at the Division II level anywhere. McCollum was coy about what player or combination of players he might use in an attempt to guard Martin. He asked for suggestions from reporters at the Northwest Athletics weekly media luncheon Feb. 11 on how to contain the post player. He said the Bearcats learned a lot from their matchup with Southern in the regional tournament, where they held Mar-

difficult, but that Hughes Fieldhouse has changed that. “We can be in this place and be so much better than some other teams that maybe don’t have that opportunity,” Masters said. Warner, similar to Austin and Hammond, was cheered on by the rest of the team. The support, he said, was something that was enjoyed and welcomed during his first career win. Prior to Masters addressing the team after the meet, chants of his name roared from the huddled-up athletes. His first-place finish, in some ways, derived from the added motivation that the team provided. “You are always going to compete harder for your team than you will for yourself,” Masters said. “That’s the culture that we put in place here at Northwest.” Masters is looking to carry the team unity that was showcased throughout the season and at the Bearcat Open into the postseason. Masters, in his conversation with the team following the meet, told the Bearcats to remain humble and hungry. “We’ve been the hunters, that’s been the philosophy of this team,” Masters said. “No one is going to give us this (MIAA) championship. We gotta take it.” The biggest competition for the Bearcats in the conference, Masters said, will be Missouri Southern and Lincoln. Southern has a team with great depth, and Lincoln has a lot of talent. “Two teams that are unbelievably talented and scary teams to face that are built completely sep-

“I think at this point in the season, if you’re not ready now, then you’re probably not gonna be ready.”
-- BEN MCCOLLUM

tin to 20 points and forced him to foul out. But whether senior forward Tyler Dougherty or freshman swingman Luke Waters or junior forward Ryan Hawkins or sophomore guard Diego Bernard might draw Martin remains unclear. “I’m always excited to play,” said Hawkins, the reigning MIAA Defensive Player of the Year, in reference to a potential individual matchup with Martin. “We’re putting Trevor (Hudgins) on ’em,” McCollum said, referring to his sophomore point guard who is listed at 6-foot and who is decidedly shorter than 6 foot. It’s possible, though, that increased external focus on Martin is overblown. Unlike Carr, the junior forward has never walked onto a court with Northwest and walked off with a win. He’s 0-2 in his career against the Bearcats and wasn’t

overly effective in either matchup, averaging 15 points per game across the two contests. While it’s McCollum taking advice on how to defend Martin, it’s still the Bearcats that haven’t lost to a team with an overly dominant post player in more than a year. The contest ahead, and the sequel scheduled for Feb. 20 at Bearcat Arena, could provide a postseason-like atmosphere for the two teams, which seem bound for the NCAA’s playoffs for the second straight year. McCollum and Hawkins both, though, were uninterested in the increased fanfare that might surround the upcoming matchup in Joplin. Hawkins said the number of fans in a given gym and which team those fans cheer for don’t affect the way he plays the game. And McCollum disagreed that the

upcoming matchups with Southern and Pitt State, led by former Division I coach Kim Anderson, would serve as any sort of dry run for the postseason. As they ready for a trip through Joplin and Pittsburg, Kansas, the Bearcats cannot be focused on getting ready, McCollum said. He hopes they’re already there. “I think at this point in the season, if you’re not ready now, then you’re probably not gonna be ready,” McCollum said. “I don’t think it impacts it one way or the other outside of just making sure you start to peak towards that postseason.” The Bearcats appear to be hitting their stride as the regular season winds down. The entire starting lineup has shot at least 50% from the field and from beyond the arc in the last five games. The Bearcats have beat their last five opponents — all conference foes — by an average of 28.2 points per game. But McCollum isn’t convinced his team is peaking at the right time, he said. He won’t know until the end — whenever that might come. “I don’t know, ’cause it’s not the right time yet,” McCollum said. “I feel like we’re right where we’re supposed to be.”



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest track and field senior Jordan Hammond finished out the Bearcat Open Feb. 8 with a final point total of 3,717. That mark total puts Hammond among the ranks of the country in the category.

arately,” Masters said. The USTFCCCA rankings as of Feb. 11 pegged the men as the No. 1 in the MIAA. For the women, they sit behind Southern as the second-best team in the rankings. Masters believes that Northwest

is somewhat a mix of both depth and talent and, in some ways, mirrors the teams that Southern and Lincoln are. With continued hard work and team unity, Masters said, the Bearcats will be the ones left stand-

ing atop both the men’s and women’s sides. “If we have that mentality and we see the team support each other like we do, then other teams will wilt and we will have a chance to win,” Masters said.



DAKOTA WEAVER | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest women’s basketball senior guard Kendey Eaton sets up the Bearcats’ offense Feb. 8 against Lincoln.

those games with an even higher mindset of, ‘OK, we’re going to play from jump ball to final buzzer

as hard as we can.” Along with the matchup against Southern, the Bearcats will look

to carry that motto into Pittsburg, Kansas, against Pitt State Feb. 15. The Gorillas (12-9, 8-7 MIAA) have already clinched a spot in the conference tournament. Which spot they’ll have is uncertain, much like if Northwest will have one at all. “I don’t think it’s like, ‘Oh, we’re ninth, we have to win,’” Hayward said. “It’s just, I mean, we’re ninth. And we know if we compete and play like we know how to play then we can win, and we will make the tournament if we just keep doing that.” For Northwest to guarantee itself a spot in the playoffs, it would have to go undefeated the rest of the way. Otherwise, it has to find some sort of success against Southern, Pitt State, Missouri Western and Washburn. That same success would have to be coupled with losses from Newman, Southern and Northeastern State.

The Bearcats, Meyer said, don’t have any added pressure down the stretch of the season. They are just going to compete and see what happens, he said. Any urgency, Hayward said, derives from the fact that the team doesn’t want to stop its progression throughout the tenure of Meyer. In other words, to be safe, the Bearcats have to be unblemished throughout the final three weeks. That, Meyer said, is easier said than done. “I guess our goal at the end of the day is to be perfect,” Meyer said. “Probably never will be but that’s the ultimate goal.” The ultimate goal is something that isn’t attainable this season. With 11 losses on the year, Northwest is far from perfect. But to make a run towards and in the postseason, the Bearcats will have to play close to it.

Tennis placed atop of preseason rankings

CRAIG MCMULLEN
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

When the 2020 MIAA coaches preseason rankings for Northwest tennis were released, both the men and women sat in strong positions. The men are predicted to win the north division over conference foe, Washburn. The women’s team is predicted to finish second in their respective divisions. The women got a few first-place votes by the other coaches in the league but were edged out by Central Oklahoma with a five-vote difference.



For the men, Northwest is followed by Washburn, Newman and Emporia State. The Bearcats, of course, lead all MIAA foes in the north division. The south division, which is made up of GAC teams, is led by Southeastern Oklahoma State. The makeup of the men’s rankings is compiled of two divisions because of the lack of tennis programs in the area. Along with that, the composition of the two conferences coming together broadens the competition that the Bearcats could face, which could serve well when it comes to the postseason. As for the women, their rankings were composed of only teams

from the MIAA. The thing that separated the Bearcats from Washburn and Northeastern State was seven votes. The results for both teams, coach Mark Rosewell said, aren’t too far off from his own idea. “The preseason polls seem accurate to me,” Rosewell said. “We have been working hard since the second week of school. We had a good fall this past year, and we are going to get in shape and get all of the hitting time in that we can before we get outside and start matches here in a couple weeks.” The women, Rosewell said, have a tall task in front of them. The Bearcats aren’t going against a team that was voted to the top

of the conference, they’re going against a team that proved it should be there with an appearance in the National Quarterfinals a season ago. With that, the men are looking over to the opposing division for stout competition. “The toughest team this season on the women’s side is going to be Central Oklahoma, who won the league last year where they got to the top eight and we got to the top 16,” Rosewell said. “For the men, it will be the schools in Oklahoma and Arkansas in the south division.” The season ahead presents challenges for the tennis team. Accompanying those challeng-

es are things that Rosewell is looking forward to. One of those things is getting back into the season itself. “We always get excited about the season this time of year because the weather is starting to get better, so we can start getting out and playing,” Rosewell said. “Once we get to March, we will be outside practicing.” Northwest starts its season Feb. 28 against William Jewel in Liberty, Missouri. The matchup with the Cardinals, in some ways, will serve as a measuring stick for the two teams that sit toward the top of their rankings, respectively.

Weiss leaves void for wrestling

ROMAN METCALF
Sports Reporter I @Roman_metcalf87

When the Maryville wrestling team takes the mat for Class 2 District 4 Tournament Feb. 14 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, it will be without one of its stand-out athletes.

For the first time in two years, the 'Hounds will have an absence left by junior Connor Weiss.

Weiss, who qualified for state in his first two years of high school, will be out due to a shoulder injury he sustained during a tri-duel Jan. 28 against Benton and St. Pius. It's an injury that puts Weiss out for the rest of the season.

"To be honest, I can't really put it into words very well," Weiss said. "I really wish I could be participating with all my brothers this weekend and at the state tournament."

The 'Hounds have struggled to find collective success this season. Maryville has shown glimpses of its potential. The team is composed of seemingly promising talent at times but drops many duels because of the lack of participation among the program. The open slots throughout meets give free points to opposing teams.

Without having one of its top wrestlers on the mat for districts, the team will have to find production elsewhere if it wants to advance to the state finals as a team.

The MSHSAA wrestling State

UP NEXT

MHS @ District Tournament

Feb. 14-15

Excelsior Springs, Missouri

Championships will take place Feb. 20-22 at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Weiss not being able to go to state with his team this year has been a hard pill for him to swallow.

"All the time I put in and to be able to not compete for districts or state tournaments, this year doesn't feel too great," Weiss said. "But I got next year."

Weiss, of course will be returning for one more year with hopes to bring back a state championship to the program.

Earlier in the year, his goals were to go undefeated, be a state champion and try to bring back a state title to Maryville. With his shoulder injury, those dreams have become nightmares.

"I really wish that I wasn't injured so I could still try to accomplish that goal," Weiss said. "It is what it is, and all I can do from here on out is help my teammates improve."

Despite being out of physically competing, Weiss has continued to have a positive impact on the team. He has continued to inspire the team while not on the mat by coaching his teammates and helping



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN
Maryville wrestling junior Connor Weiss grapples his opponent against Falls City (NE) Jan. 16 in the Hound Pound. Weiss, due to injury and personal reasons, will miss the rest of the season.

ing them get to where they need to be.

"In this time of adversity for Connor, I have realized what kind of leader he truly is," junior Keiren Watkins said.

With the possibility that Weiss

could have a severe shoulder injury, he doesn't let that stop him and has risked further injury to make sure his teammates are battle-ready for the district tournament

"Despite his injury, he shows up for all of our practices and open

mats to encourage us to wrestle our best this week," Watkins said.

The extent of Weiss's injury hasn't been diagnosed yet. The notable part, for the Spoofohounds, is the extent is enough to keep him off of the mat until next season.

Girls aiming to clinch conference title

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter I @curly_corbs

With four games remaining in the regular season, Maryville girls basketball is clawing its way through fatigue toward a conference championship.

The Spoofohounds (15-5, 4-1 MEC) are in position to win the Midland Empire Conference title as the regular season finale inches near. With three of the last four regular season games bearing title implications, coach Quentin Albrecht understands what's up for grabs.

"There's a lot on the line for us when it comes to these last three conference games," Albrecht said. "We have a chance to either win a conference title over the next week

or lose the conference title over the next week."

Maryville's single conference blemish stems from a 54-51 loss to Smithville in the championship game of the Cameron Tournament Feb. 1. Before then, the 'Hounds managed to beat conference opponents by an average of roughly 16 points per game.

However, the Spoofohounds have struggled when it comes to big game appearances. After facing an undefeated Glenwood (Iowa) team Feb. 8, Maryville struggled to keep up the pressure in the second half.

"I thought we responded really well in the first half, but we kind of faded down the stretch," Albrecht said. "I think physically, we were kind of fatigued, and mentally, that

got in our head a little bit."

This isn't the first time Albrecht has mentioned the lack of mental stamina. The struggle of mental fortitude has haunted the 'Hounds all season and with four games in the span of five days, the physical fatigue will play a big role in the team's performance.

"I have a few girls that maybe aren't focused on basketball," Albrecht said. "The one thing I am going to encourage them to do is put all the other stuff they're doing to the side and focus on what we're doing."

Albrecht wants the girls to focus on utilizing the few available days off to rest and not spend their energy doing things they shouldn't be. When the girls aren't in school or

at practice, Albrecht would find it beneficial if the team was at home relaxing.

In addition to physical and mental fatigue, the team has not had the luxury of a home crowd since Jan. 16. Maryville went 4-3 during its seven-game road trip and the bus rides totaled more than nine hours.

"We've had some really long bus rides that's tough on the girls," Albrecht said. "I even feel the fatigue factor with so many hours on the bus."

The 'Hounds are ready to return to the 'Hound Pound and finish out their season in a fashion that will either make or break the hopes of a conference championship. Maryville will have to finish off St. Joseph Benton, Cameron and

UP NEXT

MHS v Benton

7 p.m. Feb. 13

'Hound Pound

Savannah before claiming its right to the title.

St. Joseph Benton (4-12) will be the first team to enter the 'Hound Pound in nearly a month. The Feb. 13 matchup will be a rather special game as Maryville honors its senior Spoofohounds on a night that is traditionally filled with emotions.

"The girls should be very excited to be home Thursday night for Senior Night," Albrecht said. "For me, I'm excited about all the rest of our games."

'Hounds find success amid two-game stretch at home

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

It was a strenuous start to the week for the Maryville boys basketball players as they participated in atypical back-to-back nights with games Feb. 10-11.

The Spoofohounds (9-8) began the two-game stint Feb. 10 when Savannah rolled into Maryville. The matchup carried some weight as the Spoofohounds were looking to even their conference record at 2-2. They eventually did that with a 54-42 win over Savannah.

The Savages were looking to spoil the home team's advantage, jumping to a slim 15-14 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Senior guard Tate Oglesby came out with a mindset of scoring and revived his team in the second quarter, pushing Maryville to a 27-21 lead heading into halftime.

Oglesby finished with 18 points, which was good enough for a game-high. He connected on six of his shots and went 5-for-6 from the line.

Savannah relied heavily on its junior guard Wes Darnell to keep within striking distance. Darnell finished with 16 points to lead all Savannah scorers.

The consistent scoring of junior forward Ben Walker and freshman guard Caden Stoecklein surged Maryville ahead in the fourth quarter, ultimately leading to the Spoofohounds accomplishing the goal that they set out to attain before the game.

Walker finished with 13 points, with all of his shots coming inside the arc. Stoecklein captured 9 points and was perfect from the line. Maryville evened its conference record at 2-2 and jumped over 50% with an overall record of 9-8.

Coach Matt Stoecklein was impressed with his team playing with high basketball IQ.

"Savannah is always a team that is going to bring their best effort

and a mix of zone and man," Matt Stoecklein said. "It was important for our players to recognize what they were in and to start making better decisions on offense."

Maryville did not get a lot of time to celebrate with the quick turnaround of games. The 'Hounds were back in action less than 24 hours later against Cameron (6-15).

Junior center Marc Gustafson, who faced constant action in the paint, said the back-to-back action wasn't affecting him.

"My body is good," Gustafson said. "Coach tells us to rest a lot and eat healthy, and I've been following that."

For spectators, it wasn't noticeable the Spoofohounds played a game the night before as they went on a 10-0 run in the first four minutes of the game. The quick start was led by Oglesby and Caden Stoecklein hitting a 3-pointer, along with Trey Houchin and Gustafson each recording 2 points.

Cameron called a timeout, receiving a demand from its head coach to lock down on the mirage of shooting the Spoofohounds were displaying. The timeout calmed the nerves of the Dragon players, and they tied the score at 10 in less than two minutes.

The lapse on defense led Matt Stoecklein to call a timeout of his own to reenergize his team on the defensive end.

"I told them they have to play defense," Matt Stoecklein said. "They didn't feel our pressure at all. They had the ball and they didn't even know we were there. They could shoot and do whatever they wanted to."

The Maryville defense picked up its game in the second quarter. The Spoofohounds were in the passing lanes, which led to steals and transition scores. The Spoofohounds were also pressing their opponents, allowing no drives for the Dragons.

Maryville headed into the half with a 32-20 lead. After scoring 13



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN
Junior Ben Walker makes a basket against Cameron for the Maryville Spoofohounds Feb. 11. The Spoofohounds will play at Atlantic High School Feb. 13.

points in the first quarter, Cameron was held to seven points in the second.

Gustafson came out with tunnel-vision in the second half as he used his size advantage against the small lineup of the Dragons. He led the way with 12 points and was sent to the line seven times.

Matt Stoecklein said they want-

ed to take advantage of the height Cameron brought on the court.

"They don't have a tremendous amount of size, so we're trying to get Marc going, because if we can get him scoring inside, that opens up things on the outside," Matt Stoecklein said. "He's starting to finish much better and hit a lot of free throws."

UP NEXT

MHS @Atlantic CSD

6:30 p.m. Feb. 13

Atlantic, Iowa

Maryville also brought a different approach to this game, hoping to avoid players losing energy after playing the night before.

"Tonight we tried to play more kids," Matt Stoecklein said. "We tried to play eight to nine kids, and we told the players to go hard for three minutes then know you have a sub coming."

Gustafson's putbacks, kick out baskets and rested players allowed Maryville to run away with the game, winning 55-33.

Oglesby finished with 11 points, including an alley-oop tip-in. Senior guard Tylan Perry followed closely behind Oglesby with 10 points. However, Gustafson stole the spotlight.

"Just posting up and basic post moves really helped me tonight," Gustafson said. "Just being physical was huge."

Matt Stoecklein is hoping this strong performance from his big-man will increase his confidence.

"He just needs to keep growing and going up strong," Matt Stoecklein said. "We still have some things to work on with him, like going up towards the rim as we've really been trying to break his habit of going away from the rim. His confidence will continue to grow and we'll use him more in the year."

Maryville now stands at 10-8 overall and 3-2 in the MEC. Matt Stoecklein was pleased to pick up two conference wins to start off the week.

"Two big wins where moments we looked really well, moved the ball really well and played really well," Matt Stoecklein said. "It feels really good."

'Cats aim for turnaround



Sophomore infielder Olivia Daugherty scores a run in Northwest softball's 15-2 win over Lincoln April 1. The Bearcats have started the 2020 season with a 2-3 record after competing in the Minnesota State DII Softball Classic Feb. 7-9.

JESS GREIMAN
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Five games into the 2019-20 season, Northwest softball is optimistic and eager to play at a high level this year.

Despite a 2-3 start, including a pair of back-to-back losses against Minnesota State (4-1) and Concordia-St. Paul (2-3) at the Minnesota State D-II Softball Classic, coach Ryan Anderson believes this year's team has the opportunity to do something special.

"We think we're a regional team," Anderson said. "We have the hitting to do it. We have the pitching if we can stay healthy. So it's one of those things where, realistically, we want to go to regionals."

Fielding a regional-level team a year removed from a season that saw an 11-28 record, including 6-20 in the MIAA and 1-15 on the road, will be no easy task. However, this year's team takes the field with a few more factors working in their favor, namely health and experience, Anderson said.

"Realistically, we're a little bit more healthy. Last year we got hit with injuries, and mentally, we didn't know how to recover," Anderson said. "We had a lot of holes, and going into right now, we're somewhat healthy, and hopefully that's what will keep us on track."

Injuries, of course, played a part in the result of last year's season, with only four players who started in all 39 games, making continuity difficult to maintain. However, the clear cut advantage of this team, Anderson said, is its returning players.

UP NEXT

NW @ Alvy Early Classic
Feb. 14-15
Bentonville, Arkansas

"We just have a ton of experience," Anderson said. "Around, really, the infield and the outfield we have a lot of upperclassmen that have played for three years or for two years. You can't duplicate that kind of stuff. They're bringing in 300 or 400 experienced at-bats and when other teams have a freshman playing, it shows."

And, with five seniors, three juniors and eight sophomores on the roster, experience and maturity will understandably be an asset to this year's team. But, when coming off a season as poor as last year's, which saw 19 losses by three or more runs and eight games in which they gave up 10 or more runs, game experience can be discredited by many. Anderson differs from any sort of ideology in that regard.

"A lot of us were left with a bad taste from last year. We had three pitchers get hurt and it showed," Anderson said. "Hopefully, we can get that out of our head and realize we're the same team but we're not the same team; we're a new team. Mentally, we're ready to move forward and start winning."

Northwest will have an opportunity to get back on track with four games in two days Feb. 14-15 against Arkansas Tech, Southeastern Oklahoma State, Southern Arkansas and Maryville in Bentonville, Arkansas, at the Alvy Early Classic.

Baseball leans on offense for early success

GUNNAR MCHENRY
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

When Northwest baseball traveled to Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Feb. 7-9 for the Henderson State Invitational, it was looking to come back to Maryville with three wins.

The Bearcats found those three wins.

To start the invitational Feb. 7, Northwest squared off against the host school, Henderson State (1-5). The first inning of action for Northwest (5-2) wasn't ideal as the Red-dies posted three runs on the scoreboard before the Bearcats could get a chance to bat. That, Northwest coach Darin Loe said, was due to some pitching adjustments that the Bearcats are working on.

"We have a great number of new pitchers," Loe said. "Biggest thing is that I just need to get to know those guys, ... just call pitches to their strengths."

After the first inning, Northwest would outscore Henderson 10-3, leading to an eventual 10-6 win for the Bearcats. Junior pitcher Jonathan McIntyre would get the win in the first game of the invitational.

In Game 2 Feb. 8, the Bearcats faced Ouachita Baptist (2-4). Similar to the first game of the invitational, Northwest found itself trailing by one run after the first inning. That deficit, much like the one against Henderson, wouldn't be welcomed for long via two runs scored from Northwest during the top of the second inning. Those two runs came from the bat of junior outfielder Donovan Warren, who recorded a two RBI double.

The Bearcats lost the lead late in the game, but nearly mirroring the performance of the first game, Northwest came back to win 9-7. The win was secured with the final strike in the bottom of the ninth, but it was almost sure after four runs were scored in the top of that same inning.

The offensive performance for Northwest, Loe said, is something that can lead the Bearcats to success throughout the course of the long season.

"We're swinging really well,"

UP NEXT

NW @ MIAA/GLVC Classic
Feb. 14-17
Joplin, Missouri

Loe said. "Had a couple of let-ups Week 1, but that offensive group is really coming into their own. ... I feel like we can score some runs."

In the final game of the Henderson State Invitation Feb. 9, Northwest took on Oklahoma Baptist (4-2).

The Bearcats jumped out on top early as they took a 3-1 lead. Shortly after, Northwest added five runs in the third inning after an RBI double by sophomore outfielder Jordan Peck.

Northwest would give itself a seven-run lead going into the fourth inning, one that would hold to give the Bearcats a clean sweep of the trip with a 9-2 win over the Bison.

The Bearcats record, as it stands, Loe said, is very promising.

"I feel pretty good about our current record right now," Loe said. "When you look at what we have accomplished as of recently, we are swinging the bats very well, which is always a good sign early."

The Bearcats' success and ability to fight deficits is, in part, due to the breakdown method that Loe has implemented into the team. It isn't important, he said, to have a bunch of things go right at once. It is important, he added, to focus on each individual plate appearance.

"Having a quality at-bat is very important to us," Loe said. "Just taking advantage and making something out of every at-bat is key."

Loe preached how excited he is about the journey that lies ahead for the 2020 season. It's a team, he said, that has the pieces to take itself deep into the postseason and have success throughout the regular season.

"We are just focusing day by day," Loe said. "If we have practice we focus on that practice. If it's a game day we focus on the game ahead of us. ... We have the pieces to do good things, but that's only if we focus on our daily goals."



Northwest baseball senior Tim Olson chats with his first base coach after being walked against Fort Hays State. Olson appeared in nine games for the Bearcats during the 2019 season.

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Conference clinchers
Maryville girls basketball looks to claim MEC title.
see A10

Hokey pokey
Softball looks to turn about after year plagued with injury.
see A11



Sophomore guard Trevor Hudgins scored a career-high 36 points in Northwest men’s basketball’s 96-49 win over Lincoln Feb. 8 while shooting 11-of-17 from the field and 7-of-10 from 3-point range. Hudgins won his third MIAA Player of the Week award of the season Feb. 10 for his performance against Lincoln.

Bearcats look to tame Lions

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

Over the last four seasons, Northwest men’s basketball has won 122 games, claimed four-consecutive MIAA regular-season titles, four straight conference tournament crowns and two of the last three NCAA Division II Championships. Over the last four seasons, the No. 1 Bearcats (22-1, 12-1 MIAA) have lost six games. They have been the top-ranked team in the NCAA’s Central Region for each of the last three seasons. They’ve won at least 20 games in nine consecutive seasons. But over the last four seasons, there has been one team in the country that’s been able to match Northwest’s prowess, at least in a head-to-head setting. Missouri Southern (18-4, 11-2 MIAA) has split its last six matchups with Northwest. The Lions account for three of Northwest’s six losses in the last four campaigns. They’re the



only team to beat Northwest twice in four calendar years. And they’ll host Northwest Feb. 13 at the Leggett and Platt Athletic Center in Joplin, Missouri. “Well, they’ve been good,” coach

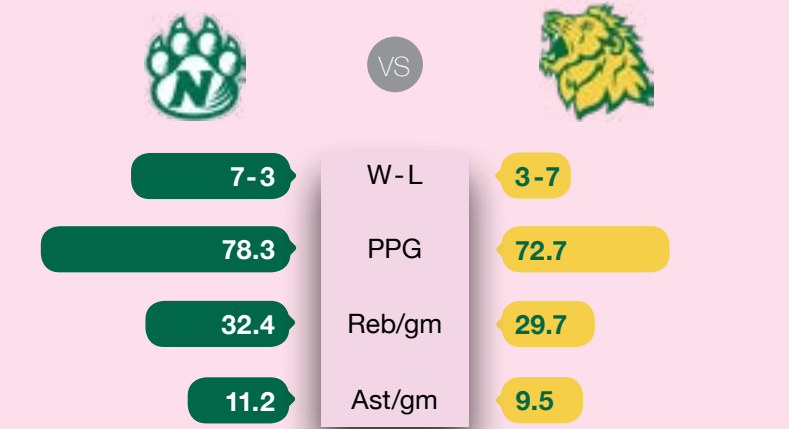
Ben McCollum said. “And I think we’ve been good. And so, that’s why they were able to beat us. I don’t think it’s necessarily a specific matchup thing or anything like that, it’s just that they’re good. And so, we’re gonna

UP NEXT

NW @ Missouri Southern
7:30 p.m. Feb. 13
Joplin, Missouri

TALE OF THE TAPE

Last 10 meetings



SOURCE: NW MISSOURIAN

AJ BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

SEE RIVALRY | A9

need to make sure that we’re at our best to be able to beat them down there.” The matchup in Joplin, of course, comes with heavy conference implications. Trailing Northwest by one game in the conference standings, Southern will matchup twice with the Bearcats in the next two weeks. Each team still controls its own fate. Still, the margin for error for both Northwest and Southern is thinning. The top-ranked teams are the only two in the MIAA to clinch spots in the conference tournament March 4, but their seedings within the tournament still hang in the balance. Additionally, the right to host the NCAA Central Region tournament remains at stake.

Track and field runs amok at Bearcat Open



Junior Caelon Harkey hands off the baton to senior Tyrell Maddox during the record-breaking 4-x-400 meter relay race at the Bearcat Open Feb. 8.

RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

NATHAN ENGLISH
Sports Reporter | @ThananEnglish

Hosting 40 teams and roughly 1,300 competitors Northwest indoor track and field team had numerous athletes on both the men’s and women’s side post top-five marks across the nation. The Bearcat Open Feb. 7-8 at the Carl & Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. In its last home meet of the season, the most dramatic of those that punched their ticket to the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field National Championships came in the men’s 4-x-400-meter relay. The race, per usual, was the last event of the meet and the anticipation was palpable as the lights were dimmed prior to the race and Guns N’ Roses reverberated off of the four walls of the building. The team — made up of junior



Caelon Harkey, senior Tyrell Maddox and sophomores Abdelrahim Mahgoub and Omar Austin — was poised for a special race when the anchor, Austin, got the baton with a substantial lead. As Austin neared the finish line, a pack of Bearcats were gathered around with anxious enthusiasm that transitioned between glancing at the clock on the scoreboard and cheering on Austin as he rounded the final turn. Maddox was waving his arms and spurring Austin on as he crossed the finish line. The final time for the team was 3 minutes, 10 seconds and 96 milliseconds. The time marked a new program record and the third-fastest time in the country. What followed was a mosh pit of celebration, including everyone from athletes to graduate assistants to coach Brandon Masters himself. The win, Masters said, was a statement race for the team.

UP NEXT

NW @ Gorilla Classic
Feb. 14-15
Pittsburg, Kansas

“It says, ‘Hey, we’re here and this race is ours,’” Masters said. Freshman Jada Shanklin was also a recipient of some raucous support from her team. Shanklin won the women’s high jump with a jump of 1.75 meters, which was her personal best in college, top five in the country and automatically qualified her for NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field National Championships March 13-14 in Birmingham, Alabama. Shanklin cleared the bar on her last attempt to a loud reception from many of her teammates and also a few of her opponents.

SEE SPEED | A9

Women fight for postseason bid down season’s stretch

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

For the first time since 2013-14, Northwest women’s basketball eclipsed the mark of 10 wins in a season. There was potential for that to happen Feb. 6 when the Bearcats squared off against No. 18 Central Missouri in Bearcat Arena. That potential diminished when the Jenies ran away in the fourth quarter



to go home with a 73-60 win. That same potential occurred Feb. 8 against Lincoln, the team that anchors the bottom of the MIAA standings. And, of course, it became a reality when the Bearcats clawed by the Blue Tigers 59-45. “Yeah we’ve had the results that maybe we haven’t had in the past,” Northwest coach Austin Meyer said. “I feel like we’ve made huge jumps. If we continue to focus on those little things — the process we

talk about, the culture, all of that little stuff — the results will happen.” The traditionally process-focused program has rather meaningful results that stand in front of them over the next three weeks which determine the fate of the season. With six games left in the regular season, the Bearcats (11-11, 6-7 MIAA) sit ninth in the conference, the top 10 teams reach the conference tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. Meyer has preached throughout the season that the only result the

Bearcats focus on is the next one. That area of focus will come in the form of a matchup against Missouri Southern (7-14, 4-9 MIAA) Feb. 13 in Joplin, Missouri. The Lions, Meyer said, don’t present the record that other programs in the top-heavy conference do. However, he added, that doesn’t matter when the two teams meet. “Just gotta have that mindset that we’re on the road again; it’s just us,” Meyer said. “We know we’ve gotta compete and play hard. Southern’s a

UP NEXT

NW @ Missouri Southern
5:30 p.m. Feb. 13
Joplin, Missouri

team that is below us but they play well at home. And they’re a team that if we don’t come out ready to compete and play hard, we won’t win the game.”

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Mock Interview Day

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